

R E P L Y T O A

Paper Intituled:

An Answer to the Pretended *CASE* Printed concerning the Navigation of the River *Wye*, in the County of *Surrey*, by shewing the true state thereof.

THe Design of making the River *Wye* Navigable, was in Proposition many Years before the Undertaking thereof. For *Thomas Earle of Arundel* (Grandfather to the now Duke of *Norfolk*) Discourst with the Gentlemen of *Sussex* and *Surry*, how to make a Navigable Cut from *Arundel* in *Sussex*, to the *Thames* by the River *Wye*, about 30 Years ago, and took a Survey of that Passage; But the greatness of the Charge and difficulty of the Work deterred him. About the Year 1625. Doctor *Abbat* (Lord Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*) being Born at *Guilford* in *Surrey*, and desirous for the Benefit of the Town, to have a River made; caused a Survey to be taken, but Charge and Difficulty discouraged him also, so that his Grace bestowed that intended Charity, in Building an Hospital in that Town.

Mr. *Pitson* having observed in *Holland*, the Advantage and Art of Navigable Cuts, and being Discourst by the Inhabitants of *Guilford*, (near whereunto he dwelt) concerning the Navigation of River *Wye*, assured them the thing was Feasible, whereupon they Requested him to undertake it, and Procured an Act of the then Pretended Parliament for the doing thereof, which he did. And the Work being too great for *Guilford* to go through with, they Assigned their Power by the said Pretended Act, to *Pitson*, *Scotcher*, *How* and *Waltham*. *How* and *Waltham* Releas'd to *Pitson* and *Scotcher*.

Sir *Richard Weston* was under Sequestration, by Sir *Richard Onslow*, and other the Commissioners as a Delinquent, and Refusant, upon Supposition that he had been in Arms at *Hereford*, which Mr. *Pitson* satisfied the then Powers was not true, and so helpt him off his Sequestration for Pretended Delinquency.

After which Sir *Richard Weston* proffering for 6000. *l.* to perform the Work, it was Agreed he should have half the Profit for his Charges, and they furnish the other 3000. *l.* and took a Mortgage of the Mannor of *Sutton* for Security of his Performance, but he failing sold his Moyty to *Pitson* and others, for 3100. *l.* more. And before the River was made Navigable, *Pitson* laid out above 10000. *l.* and Sir *Richard Weston* was Reimburs'd every Farthing he could pretend to have laid out. And though a Son of Sir *Richard Westons*, undertook to proceed upon his Fathers beginnings, yet he also Failed, and *Pitson* finish'd the Cut in 1653. as is clearly proved in the Court of Exchequer. But whereas that Paper says, that it is in Proof before the Barons, that *Pitson* in 1654. had Received above 2000. *l.* more then his Disbursements; 'tis so far from being True, that nothing like it has been offered in Proof there, and the Records themselves will best decide this Controversie.

Pitson and his Partners had Possession of the River till 1662. when one *Dickenson* a Soliciter finding that part of the Lands Cut through was the Kings Waste, and that some Land-Owners who had been agreed withal, and received part (but not all) their Moneys, had not conveyed their Lands to *Pitson*, took Advantage thereof in 1662. And got a Lease of some Lands from Lessees under the Queen, and of others from the Land-owners unsatisfied, and stopt the Navigation; though divers Orders of the King and Council, and Annimadversions of the Court of Exchequer, have severally reproved Mr. *Dickenson*'s troublesome and unreasonable Carriage in this Affairs: Yet in hopes to weary *Pitson* and all others not Trucking with him, he has continued this Disturbance, that he may securely Fish in troubled Waters, and what ever becomes of the Client, the Soliciter being the common Trustee will be a gainer. But because the said Paper pretends Matters on *Dickenson*'s part to be so clearly proved before the Barons, it is humbly desired that by what has and shall appear in the said Court of Exchequer, to be true in Proof, every mans Interest may stand or fall.

The matter depended long in the Court of Exchequer because Mr. *Dickenson* used all the subterfuge and evasions imaginable to delay the Proceedings, and shifted the Intrests by so many Conveyances Leases and Assignments Pendent like to amuse the Cause, that had not that Court been extraordinary industrious as well as just, *Pitson* and *Sands*, &c. the Cause had been unheard to this day, which has been *Dickenson*'s continual endeavour.

The Notes mentioned in that Paper were obtained when Mr. *Pitson* was not heard, but laid in Goal by *Dickenson* and others to moderate procurement under Actions of Two hundred fifty six thousand seven hundred pounds.

That what is said, that Two Bills brought in by *Sands* and *Pitson*, were thrown out, is utterly untrue, for never was any Bill of theirs laid aside, but as the Sessions determined, the Bills fell with the Sessions, and not otherwise.